

HAHA

Hungerford Allotment Holders Association

Fact Sheet

No 5

Fairfields Garden Allotment Strategy

The purpose of this strategy is to document the way in which plot holders wish the site to be developed and so provide the Management Committee with guidance on funding priorities and credibility when approaching external bodies for grants or loans.



Overall vision for HAHA

- Meeting the reasonable needs of the plot holders so as to achieve high occupancy levels and low rate of "churn".
- Nurturing the relationship with Hungerford Town Council which has legal accountabilities for allotments, associated obligations and powers to match.
- Encouraging demand for allotments and engaging with the broader community within Hungerford, including linking with HEAT to maximise synergies.
- Maximising use of the skills and experience of all plot holders so as to create strong social bonds whilst minimising costs and demonstrating self-reliance.
- Ensuring adequate resources to deliver this vision.

- Provide a web site for general public access with a forum restricted to HAHA members.
- Publish HAHA Times, available to all plot holders.
- Agree site management terms with Hungerford Town Council and meet regularly with them for updates.

Overall vision for Fairfields Garden Allotments

Productive, well-tended plots within an attractive site and with a friendly social environment. Long term tenure secured. Plant and equipment readily usable by any trained adult. This will be achieved by:

- Being a good neighbour.
- Encourage grow-your-own philosophy within the community.
- Encourage allotmenting in the community in an eco-friendly way.
- To be an all-inclusive site.
- Provide support and guidance to plot-holders
- The philosophy for site maintenance and management is Re-use, Reduce, Re-Cycle.



The Practicalities to deliver this vision

Fencing, Gates and Hedging

- Make site secure.
- User friendly gates and locks.
- Provide privacy to neighbours and support bio-diversity.

Individual Plots

- Regular checks by Site Steward with follow-up by committee to ascertain root cause of any problems.
- Offering help, guidance and training where appropriate.

Paths and General Ground Works

- Concrete paths to be maintained.
- Plot holders to keep clear and clean paths adjacent to their own plots.
- Maintain border at front of site to encourage community involvement.
- Keep site entrance neat and tidy.



Sheds

- Sheds to be available for all plot holders on a shared basis.
- Shed woodwork to be painted from community source.
- Community shed to be fitted out to provide storage for communal tools.

Water

- Water is available for the site by environmentally friendly water collection system as weather permits.

Seed Fairy

- Provide seeds, plants, materials and fertiliser to meet the reasonable needs of plot holders.

- Organise communal provision for manure, bark chip, compost as necessary
- Manage cultivation of communal areas.
- Organise plant swaps and sales.

Communal Area and Social Events

- Provide seating, plants and shrubs to create an attractive area for communal and social activities.
- Link with the broader community within Hungerford, using the full potential offered by the allotment site.
- Organise events to develop the Fairfields allotment community and raise funds for re-investment in the allotment site.
- Encourage allotments holders and the local community to join in with social events.



Communications

- Publish a quarterly newsletter to allotment holders.
- Publish a Welcome Pack and User Guide to explain how the site is managed and to aid compliance with the terms of the Plot Holder Agreement with the Council.
- Use email and notice boards so as to meet specific needs of allotment holders.
- Enable and encourage feedback from plot holders through use of on-site letterbox or Fairfields e-mail (fairfieldsgaa@gmail.com)

General Management

- Establish and maintain a register of plot holders, a waiting list which will be managed by HAA.
- Identify and manage risks.
- Strictly control budgets and align investment with this strategy.